

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 06339 090944Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00
/105 W
-----061542 090947Z /21/73

O R 081630Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2448
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCU
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVAN
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USLO PEKING
USMISSION USN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 6339

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T (PARA 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: POR, UN, RQ
SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: STATE 227574

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, EMBASSY SOUGHT APPOINTMENT WITH TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, TO REVIEW RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN COMMITTEE OF 24 AND TO URGE THAT TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE BE SUPPORTIVE.

2. HIGHEST RANKING OFFICER AVAILABLE WAS BECHIR GUELLOUZ, CHIEF OF UNITED NATIONS DIVISION. DEMARCHE WAS MADE BY EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER WHO HAS BEEN WORKING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY ON PUERTO RICO ISSUE.

3. POLITICL OFFICER ORALLY REVIEWED TALKING POINTS IN REFTEL WITH GUELLOUZ AND AFTERWARDS LEFT INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF PARAGRAPH TWO. HE UNDERLINED APPRECIATION OF COOPERATIVE SUPPORT GIVEN BY TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN COMMITTEE OF 24 AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE WHICH USG GIVES TO OUTCOME OF CURRENT DELIBERATIONS. POLITICAL OFFICER SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE SUPPORT PASSAGE OF AMENDED RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY AUSTRALIA AND IN EVENT COMITTEE WAS FORCED TO TAKE VOTE ON ORIGIANL CUBAN/IRAQI DRAFT, THAT TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE VOTE AGAINST PASSAGE.

4. GUELLOUZ SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT RECEIVED REPORT FROM TUNISIAN DELEGATION AND IN FACT WAS UNAWARE CONTENTS OF AUSTRALIAN REVISION. COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS GIVEN TO GUELLOUZ AT CLOSE OF MEETING. GUELLOUZ ASKED POINOEDLY WHETHER A TUNISIAN ABSTENTION WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO USG SHOULD CUBAN/IRAQI RESOLUTION COME TO VOTE. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER EXPLAINED THAT GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCES NEGATIVE VOTES WERE NEEDED, NOT ABSTENTIONS.

5. GUELLOUZ SAID GOT WOULD TRY TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE AND HE PROMISED TO TELEPHONE TUNISIAN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY WITH INSTRUCTIONS. HE DID NOT SAY WHAT THESE INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE BUT IMPRESSION GIVEN WAS THAT TUNISIAN REPRESENTATIVE ALREADY HAS INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO CROSS U.S. ON THIS ONE. GUELLOUZ COMMENTED THAT PERHAPS BEST THING FOR ALL CONCERNED WOULD BE CONSENSUS ON AUSTRALIAN PROPOSALS. THIS WOULD CLEARLY BE TUNISIAN PREFERENCE IF POSSIBLE.

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